M/s. ITC Ltd., their job workers and dealers on 17-2-87. After investigations a show cause notice for Rs. 803.77 crores was issued on 27-3-87 by the Directorate of Anti-Evasion for the period 1-3-83 to 28-2-87 against M/s. ITC and its 7 outside contract manufacturers. For the period prior to 1-3-83, ten show cause notices demanding duty of Rs. 300.65 crores have been issued against M/s. ITC and their outside contract manufacturers.

(b) M/s. ITC Ltd. filed a writ petition in Calcutta High Court challenging the Show Cause Notice demanding duty of Rs. 803.77 crores and for grant of injunction against the adjudication proceedings. Writ petition was dismissed by the single Judge Bench of Calcutta High Court on 24-12-87 after hearing the matter.

The party filed an appeal before the Division Bench of Calcutta High Court. The hearing in the appeal is still continuing.

(c) All the cases referred to in reply to Part (a) above are presently under adjudication by various adjudicating authorities. The question of recovery of any amounts will arise only after the cases have been adjudicated.

Holding of Loan Melas

877. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

SHRI HARI SINGH:

SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided not to hold loan meals henceforth;

(b) what is the number of loan melas held during the last three years; and

(c) what is the number of loan melas held so far during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Depending on local responsiveness—the public sector banks have been organising credit camps as a part of the overall measures taken by them to improve flow of credit to weaker sections. The present data reporting system does not yield information in respect of number of credit camps organised by the banks. The banks follow the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India for lending to priority sector for all loans whether they are given at bank branches or at credit camps.

Gramin Banks

878. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA:

SHRI HARI SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Gramin Banks functioning at present in the country;

(b) what is the total coverage of villages and population;

(c) how many of them are working on profit; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to make these banks viable?